

global youth issues

With **over half of the world's population under the age of 30**, there are more young people in the world than ever. Empowered youth are among our foremost innovators and drivers of progress. But youth without access to legitimate livelihoods and means to make their voices heard can hinder all of our security – **86% percent of civil unrest occurs in societies where a significant majority of the population is younger than 30**.

Secretary Clinton founded the **Office of Global Youth Issues** to elevate youth policy and programming throughout the Department at this critical moment. Created as the result of a Department-wide review of youth in our foreign policy, the office focuses on:

- Young people's access to **jobs and economic opportunities**.
- Young people's **opportunities for civic and political participation**.

We do so through our **diplomacy**, ensuring outgoing Foreign Service officers receive focused youth engagement training through our Foreign Service Institute; building an international partnership of governments focused on advancing youth initiatives; and incorporating youth as a cornerstone of bilateral dialogue around the world.

We do so in **our programs**, working with regional bureaus to develop youth programs from Latin America, where youth leaders across ten countries are receiving grants to build innovative youth empowerment projects in their communities; to South Asia, where hundreds of thousands now receive essential services from new youth community service projects; to the Middle East and North Africa, where we partnered with young Tunisians to educate voters before their recent election.

We **partner with others**, such as businesses, to provide further opportunities, convening the Global Youth Jobs Alliance of companies committed to linking young people to training, mentoring, and job opportunities.

And we do so by **engaging young people directly as honest partners in our policy processes** - working with ambassadors around the world to build embassy youth councils that advise the U.S. at a country level and design programs for youth, by youth; and launching a global strategic dialogue with youth civil society leaders.

Ronan Farrow is the current **Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Global Youth Issues** and Director of the Office of Global Youth Issues. Follow Special Adviser Farrow on Twitter: @RonanFarrow. For more information, email us: globalyouth@state.gov